

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069703

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/I:JWWALKER:HRB

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLOUGHRAN

NWC - AMBASSADOR LEONHART(SUBS)

ICAF: AMB. CARLSON(SUBS)

ISA: MR. BADER(SUBS)

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O R 272108Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: XA, MILI, IV

SUBJECT:NWC AFRICAN STUDY GROUP 1975

1. DEEPLY REGRET SHORTNESS OF LEAD TIME IN THE FOLLOWING REQUEST BUT NWC AFRICAN STUDY GROUP WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE AN ABIDJAN VISIT FOR ABOUT 3 DAYS IN LATE APRIL.

2. FYI. UNTIL LAST FEW DAYS NWC HAS HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT NIGERIA AS NWC HAS ANNUALLY FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE NOW FIND GENERAL GOWON AND TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE OUT OF NIGERIA FOR COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE ABOUT TIME OF VISIT AND NIGERIANS APPEAR RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT GROUP IF GENERAL CANNOT RECEIVE IT AS HAS BEEN HIS CUSTOM. THIS HAS CAUSED NWC TO TURN BELATEDLY TO IVORY COAST AS ALTERNATIVE TO NIGERIAN VISIT. THIS WOULD BE A HAPPY CHOICE FOR THE NWC WERE IT NOT FOR THE SHORTAGE-OF TIME IT GIVES YOU. AT THE SAME TIME WHEN CONSIDERING YOUR RESPONSE, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES ALSO IS PLANNING TO VISIT

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PAGE 02 STATE 069703

NIGERIA IN LATE MAY. IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE LAGOS

STOP THEY, TOO, MAY WISH TO VISIT IVORY COAST.

3. DEPARTMENT IS REPEATING TO ABIDJAN THE TWO ACTION
TELEGRAMS WHICH HAVE GONE TO OTHER POSTS OUTLINING PRE-
PARATIONS FOR THE AFRICA VISIT. IN THE CASE OF IVORY
COAST NWC WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE NATION'S
ECONOMY, THE SUCCESS OF ITS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE
POLITICAL STABILITY IT HAS ACHIEVED AMONG OTHER ITEMS OF
INTEREST. IN ANY EVENT, IVORY COAST IS A MOST ATTRACTIVE
NATION FOR A STUDY SUCH AS THAT UNDERTAKEN ANNUALLY BY
THE NWC AND VISITS THERE IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
SUCCESSFUL FROM NWC VIEW POINT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED; WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CON-
CURRENCE IN PROPOSED VISIT BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM AND HOST
COUNTRY CLEARANCE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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